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In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 6-9. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 3-5 and 10-12 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicant canceled claims 13-22 in a previous communication. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims.

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejections set forth in the Office Action, by the present Response, Applicant has chosen to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 10, respectively. Additionally, Applicant canceled claims 3 and 10 without prejudice, and amended claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 to update the dependencies of these claims. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, and 12 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2006

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